



FY 2013 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE

**UNITED STATES STRATEGY TO PREVENT AND RESPOND
TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE GLOBALLY**





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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of State (“the Department”) is committed to preventing and responding to gender-based violence (GBV) globally, and plays a unique role in support of U.S. diplomatic engagement, foreign assistance programming, and sustaining relationships with civil society actors across the globe. The Department is also committed to addressing GBV in conflict-affected environments, as detailed in the [**U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security**](#).

Throughout the first year of implementing the [**U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence Globally**](#), pursuant to Executive Order 13623 “Preventing and Responding to Violence Against Women and Girls Globally,” the Department built on longstanding efforts to address and integrate this issue into its diplomatic, security, and development efforts.

Accomplishments

The following presents an overview of examples of accomplishments in fiscal year (FY) 2013.

Objective 1: To Increase Coordination of Gender-based Violence Prevention and Response Efforts among United States Government Agencies and with Other Stakeholders

Over the course of FY 2013, the Department made significant strides to increase coordination of GBV prevention and response efforts internally, across U.S. government agencies, and with external stakeholders including partner governments, civil society, and the private sector. For example:

- › The Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues (S/GWI) served in a lead coordinating role to facilitate information sharing and collaboration throughout the Department on GBV-related events, initiatives, programs, and policies.
- › Department representatives actively participated in three interagency committees on GBV, which are focused on 1) best practices and research; 2) monitoring and evaluation; and 3) mapping and pilot country approach. The Department co-chairs the latter with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).
- › Embassies formed or strengthened interagency working groups to coordinate activities and priorities around gender equality and female empowerment, including a focus on GBV.
- › The Department continued to advance global public-private partnerships aimed at preventing and responding to GBV, such as the Together for Girls partnership, which strengthens capacity on data collection and research on violence against children, particularly sexual violence against girls, the GBV Emergency Response and Protection Initiative, which provides urgent assistance to individual survivors of extreme acts of GBV, offers targeted prevention and/or protection assistance to GBV organizations, and coordinates and strengthens a global network of GBV first responders, and the Burma Partnership, which focuses on underprivileged or conflict-affected areas and

promotes women and peace-building, women's leadership, women and girls' empowerment, women's health, and addressing GBV through various projects.

- The Department collaborated with international organizations, civil society, and national governments to develop and advance resources, tools, and indicators to address GBV. These included new indicators covering the intersection of gender and HIV as part of the *Compendium of Gender Equality and HIV Indicators*, post-rape care guidelines to prevent HIV infection, and guidance for American female travelers.

Objective 2: To enhance the integration of gender-based violence prevention and response efforts into existing United States government work.

The Department worked diligently over FY 2013 to improve the integration of GBV prevention and response efforts into ongoing programming, planning, policy, and strategy documents – including through diplomatic engagement and foreign assistance. For example:

- The Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) created the [*INL Guide to Gender in the Criminal Justice System in 2013*](#). The guide provides practical guidance to INL staff and other criminal justice practitioners designing and implementing foreign assistance programs on ways to promote gender equality, including protecting women and girls from GBV, as part of and through criminal justice programming.
- The Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) integrated GBV-related activities within existing work and foreign assistance for refugee and conflict-affected communities. In FY 2013, over 50 percent of PRM's NGO- and international organization-funded projects included a GBV component.¹ In September 2013, PRM, in conjunction with USAID, launched the [*Safe from the Start*](#) initiative, which aims to prevent and respond to GBV from the very onset of an emergency. The initiative

¹ This funding does not include support the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration provides to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the World Food Programme (WFP), which work to mainstream GBV prevention and response throughout their work. PRM's contributions to these organizations largely support multi-sectoral activities. As such, exact PRM support for GBV activities of these international organization partners cannot be reliably calculated.

included a \$10 million initial investment for organizations such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to train and hire staff and develop innovative programs to protect women and girls in emergencies.

- The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Gender Technical Working Group (GTWG) conducted a comprehensive review of all Country Operational Plans to ensure that gender considerations and GBV were sufficiently addressed across HIV prevention, care, and treatment programs. In FY 2013, 800 health facilities reported that they now offer GBV screening and/or assessment and provision of referrals to relevant services, a 300 percent increase from the previous year. PEPFAR programs have successfully supported individual, small group, and community-level interventions and services that explicitly address GBV prevention. In FY 2013, 12 countries reported that they reached nearly 2.5 million people with GBV prevention interventions and services.
- The Department worked to enhance staff capacity related to GBV through training. For example, the Political Training Division at the Foreign Service Institute offers a three-day course on "Promoting Gender Equality in Foreign Policy." The course addresses GBV as part of the curriculum, as well as information on effective policy responses. Other bureaus including PRM, INL, the Bureau of Consular Affairs, the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, and the Bureau of Political Military Affairs, have incorporated GBV into existing or new courses or training.

Objective 3: *To improve collection, analysis, and use of data and research to enhance gender-based violence prevention and response efforts.*

The Department worked to improve the collection, analysis, and use of data and research to improve GBV prevention and response efforts. For example:

- The Department worked to improve tracking and evaluation of GBV activities. In 2011, State and USAID revised the performance and budgetary definition of the Gender Key Issue to allow for consistent reporting in budget and performance documents and better alignment with international donor reporting, and continued to fine-tune the Gender Key Issue definition in 2012

and 2013. One of the four components of the Gender Key Issue definition includes GBV.

- To strengthen evaluation processes, S/GWI worked with the Office of U.S. Foreign Assistance Resources (F) and with the Bureau of Budget and Planning (BP) to begin to integrate gender analyses in the strategic planning process and has provided gender-sensitive refinements to F and BP for program evaluation. With S/GWI's assistance, "gender considerations" guidance was incorporated into the Department's official Evaluation Guidance.
- PEPFAR programs are now required to report on a GBV indicator measuring the number of people receiving post-GBV care, contributing to the growing data around women and girls experiencing GBV.
- Dedicated U.S. government funding to support data collection and analysis of country-specific trends is critical to ensure well-informed, effective programming. Toward this end, the Department worked to strengthen the capacity of partner governments and local organizations to improve data collection, research, and analysis. Key examples include work in Afghanistan, Botswana, Costa Rica, Timor-Leste, and various countries in Sub-Saharan Africa through the Together for Girls partnership.

Objective 4: To enhance or expand U.S. government programming that addresses gender-based violence.

The Department recognizes the importance of sustained engagement on GBV programming. For example:

- Over the last four years, PEPFAR engagement in over 25 countries has included extensive gender-related initiatives. These investments represent a significant increase over the first phase of PEPFAR and have positioned the program as the single largest donor to the global GBV response. In the past four years, PEPFAR reached over 114,000 individuals with post-exposure prophylaxis to prevent HIV for sexual violence survivors in 19 countries.
- In March 2013, Secretary Kerry launched the Full Participation Fund (FP Fund) as a mechanism to promote integration of gender equality and advancement of the status of women and girls in all Department operations, programming, and diplomacy. The



FP Fund provides seed money for the Department to implement new innovative initiatives or to expand programs that are already underway but have shown proven results.

- The GBV Committee on Best Practices and Research analyzed promising programs that have potential for scaling and drawing on lessons. Further, the Department identified model programs and opportunities to build on this work.
- The Department continued the use of public diplomacy programs to advance objectives around preventing and responding to GBV. The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs brought 339 emerging leaders from around the world to the United States to explore GBV-related topics as part of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). These IVLP projects addressed child sexual abuse, trafficking in persons, sex trafficking and forced labor, human rights advocacy and awareness, sexual coercion and abuse, neglect, intimate partner violence, elder abuse, and harmful traditional practices.

Challenges

A range of challenges, both internal and external, limited the Department's implementation of the Strategy's objectives in FY 2013. External obstacles included weak political will and discriminatory gender norms in target countries; women's limited representation in leadership positions; and insecure operating environments. Internal obstacles included funding constraints; human resource constraints, including insufficient training on gender-sensitive policy and programming; and uneven monitoring and evaluation.

Recommendations

As the Department furthers its implementation of the *U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence Globally* in FY 2014, it is committed to focusing on internal processes, engagement with external stakeholders, and technical effectiveness that are high-impact, necessary, achievable, and informed by those charged with implementation on the ground. The Department has identified next steps building on a range of recommendations identified through implementation and our exchange of lessons learned with partners. Recommendations include:

- › **Internal coordination and integration:** Strengthen intra-agency and interagency coordination, including through continued work on the three interagency committees; and continue to enhance the integration of GBV prevention and response into existing Department policy and programming.
- › **Engagement with external stakeholders:** Further build capacity of local and civil society organizations to address GBV through programming and training; enhance awareness-raising of and increased dialogue around GBV, especially through public diplomacy efforts; and increase attention to GBV in multilateral forums.
- › **Policy and Programming:** Enhance diplomacy efforts with host governments and the international community to advance GBV objectives; support continued partnerships; expand GBV tools and resources; consider opportunities for south-south technical assistance; and expand programming while also addressing human resources shortfalls.
- › **Leadership:** Sustain the United States' leadership on the prevention and response to GBV.

The Department will continue to promote GBV-related objectives in its bilateral relationships, engagement with civil society and the private sector, and in the United Nations and other multilateral fora. The Department is committed to continuing its essential work to promote gender equality to achieve United States national security and foreign policy objectives.



DESIGNED AND PRINTED BY A/GIS/GPS
SEPTEMBER 2014